



Oh, that explains it



Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

[illegible]

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PERSONAL CURRICULUM

What the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law Says

Sec. 1278b(5) The bill allows the parent or legal guardian of a pupil to request a personal curriculum for that pupil that modifies certain requirements of the Michigan Merit Standard requirements. The personal curriculum must be developed by the pupil, at least one of his or her parents or his or her guardian, and his or her high school counselor or other designee selected by the high school principal. Revisions to a personal curriculum may be made if they are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the original personal curriculum.

Sec. 1278b(5)(b) The personal curriculum must incorporate as much of the subject area content expectations of the Michigan Merit Standard as is practicable; establish measurable goals that the pupil must achieve while enrolled in high school; provide a method to evaluate whether he or she met those goals; and be aligned with the pupil's educational development plan (which a pupil must develop before entering high school, under the bill).

Sec. 1278b(5)(c) The pupil's parent or legal guardian and the superintendent of the school district or chief executive of the PSA or his or her designee must agree to the personal curriculum before it takes effect. If a pupil is at least 18 or is an emancipated minor, he or she may act on his or her own behalf under these provisions. The parent or guardian must be in communication with each of the pupil's teachers at least once each calendar quarter to monitor the pupil's progress toward the goals in his or her personal curriculum.

Questions & Answers

1. Q: Will there be guidelines from MDE as to when a personal curriculum modification can be made?

A: Yes. Work is underway on definitions and policies. Guidance will be developed with input from local and intermediate school districts.

2. Q: How can a student develop a personal curriculum?

A: The parent or legal guardian of a student may request a personal curriculum for the student that modifies a limited number of the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements. A student is required to develop the personal curriculum with his or her parent or legal guardian and his or her guidance counselor or another qualified designee selected by the high school principal. A personal curriculum must be in keeping with the student's career plan. Revisions to a personal curriculum may be made if they are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the original personal curriculum.

If a student is at least 18 years old or is an emancipated minor, he or she may act on his or her own behalf under these provisions. The parent or guardian must be in communication with each of the student's teachers at least once each calendar quarter to monitor the student's progress toward the goals in his or her personal curriculum.

3. Q: Do students following a personal curriculum still get a diploma?

A: Yes. If all of the requirements under the law for a personal curriculum are met, then the board of education of a local school district or board of directors of a public school academy may award a high school diploma to a student who successfully completes his or her personal curriculum.

4. Q: What are the accommodations for students receiving special education services?

A: If a student receives special education services, his or her individualized education program, in accordance with the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, must identify the supports, accommodations, and modifications necessary to allow him or her to progress in the curricular requirements, or in a personal curriculum, and meet the requirements for a high school diploma.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

Personal Curriculum Modification Options

Credits	Subject Area	Graduation Requirement	Personal Curriculum (Modification)
4 Credits	English Language Arts	Aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education	No modification
4 Credits	Mathematics	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 1 additional math or math-related course Math or math-related credit in the final year	All students: Complete at least 3.5 math or math-related credits Complete a math or math-related credit in the final year Algebra 2 modification options: Complete 2.5 credits including .5 credit of Algebra 2 OR Complete a two year Career and Technical education curriculum which includes .5 credit of Algebra 2 content OR Complete Algebra 2 over 2 years with credit given for each year
3 Credits	Science	Biology Chemistry or Physics 1 additional Science credit	No modification
3 Credits	Social Studies	.5 Civics .5 Economics US History and Geography World History and Geography	No modification of Civics 2 credits must be earned Modified only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, Science, or Languages other than English
1 Credit	Physical Education and Health	Credit guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Education	Modification only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, Science, or Languages other than English
1 Credit	Visual, Performing, Applied Arts	Credit guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Education	Modification only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, Science, or Languages other than English
2 Credits	Languages other than English	Begins with students entering 3rd grade in 2006 Credits earned in grades 9-12 OR An equivalent learning experience in grades K-12	No modification
	Online Learning Experience	Online course or learning experience OR Online experience is incorporated into each of the required credits	No modification